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Intercommunal Talks Postponed

The third round of intercommunal talks that was scheduled to be held in Vienna tomorrow under the auspices of UN Secretary General Waldheim have been postponed, because of developments in the Middle East. The talks will resume next week.

In the meantime, the EC nine on July 21 made a demarche to Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders, as well as to Athens and Ankara, urging that neither side take any unilateral actions that would disrupt the negotiations. The EC specifically asked Turkish Cypriot leader Denktash to renounce the extreme position he had taken the day before when he threatened to expel five Greek Cypriots from the north for every Turkish Cypriot that was prevented from leaving the south.

Although Denktash defended his position on the expulsions, he later moderated his stand by hinting to reporters that his plan to expel Greeks from the north might be postponed, presumably at least until after the Vienna talks are held. Denktash also offered the conciliatory comment that he and Greek Cypriot leader Clerides had made further progress toward resolving problems relating to exchanges of population and that he was now ready to carry out his part of the bargain.

If the Greek Cypriots refuse Turkish proposals at Vienna the Turks expect Cypriot President Makarios to take the Cyprus problem once more to the UN. This prospect does not disturb the Turks who believe that they have rallied sufficient Arab support to ensure a sympathetic hearing for their side.

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Austrian People's Party To Select New Leader

The Austrian People's Party will hold a special congress on July 31 to elect a new chairman to replace Karl Schleinzer, who died in an auto accident last weekend. Schleinzer's death probably wrecked the party's already minimal chances of ousting the incumbent Socialists in the national elections in October.

Thus far, speculation about possible successors has been sparse. The People's Party lacks good leadership timber, and the various factions may settle on an innocuous compromise candidate just to enable the party to "get through" the election period. Party stalwart Alois Mock, who has represented labor interests in the party, is fairly well-known nationally and has the necessary experience and agreeable personality to make him a contender.

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West European Socialists to Discuss Portuguese Situation

West European socialist leaders plan to meet in Stockholm on August 2 to devise means to support the Portuguese Socialist Party.

Former West German chancellor Brandt, Austrian Chancellor Kreisky and Swedish Prime Minister Palme plan to take advantage of the presence of European leaders at the European security conference summit in Helsinki to organize the Stockholm meeting. If all the leaders who have been invited attend, the meeting will bring together the heads of government of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, The Netherlands, West Germany, Austria and the UK. Both of the veteran Italian leaders, Pietro Nenni and Giuseppe Saragat, will probably be invited, as will the French Socialist leader, Francois Mitterrand. The Swedish secretary of state has said that Portuguese party chief Soares told him last weekend that he expects to attend, but if events make this impossible he will send another leading party official.

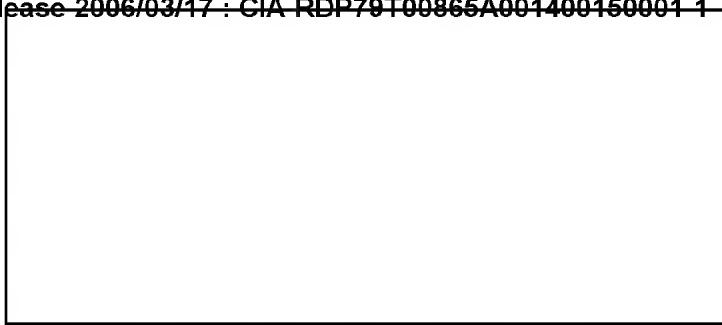
The organizers intend to issue a communique which would have a significant impact in further marshaling international opinion behind Portuguese democratic forces, given the prestige and influence of the participants. The leaders probably will also take advantage of this opportunity to discuss the possible coordination of additional measures to help the Portuguese. The Socialist International bureau issued a statement shortly after Soares and the Socialists withdrew from the Lisbon government appealing to all fraternal parties to support the Portuguese socialists and to provide financial aid to the Portuguese government.

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In a related development, EC Commissioner Soames told the US Mission to the EC earlier this week that the EC heads of government at their recent meeting agreed to warn Soviet leader Brezhnev privately during the Helsinki meetings against potential Soviet interference in the Portuguese situation.

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Friction Between Norway and the Soviet Union

Disagreement over national boundaries in the Barents Sea and administrative problems on Svalbard continue to strain relations between Norway and the Soviet Union.

The Soviets recently hinted at a package deal to settle the question of dividing the continental shelf in the Barents Sea and solving the Svalbard problem. The Soviets have implied that their position may soften if Norway adopts a policy on petroleum exploration and exploitation off North Norway that accords with Soviet interests.

Norway backs a median or equidistant line to divide the shelf, while the Soviets want a "sector line" giving them more territory. Sporadic talks between the two countries have so far failed to produce an agreement. A Soviet official recently suggested that both sides should suspend activity in the disputed area pending an agreement.

The Soviet community on Svalbard--currently numbering about 2,000--is pressing Norway for "administrative reforms." While the Norwegians admit that some revision may be necessary, they are concerned that the reforms would infringe on Norway's sovereignty over the area.

The Norwegians also are annoyed that the Soviets have ignored regulations requiring helicopters flying into Svalbard to be licensed.

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Soviet scientific expeditions have not requested permission to use radio transmitting equipment. In addition, the Soviets have not complied with Norwegian oil-drilling safety regulations.

The Norwegian decision to limit invitations to the 50th anniversary celebration of the Svalbard treaty on August 14 to ambassadors resident in Oslo has irritated the Soviets. The Norwegians originally intended to invite each signatory to send two representatives, but changed their mind in order to keep the level of representation equal and to prevent the Soviets from sending a high-level delegation.

The Norwegians have repeatedly insisted that they intend to maintain tight control over exploration and development in the Svalbard archipelago. The Soviets regard extensive economic activity in the area as a hindrance to their right of free passage to and from their large military bases on the Kola peninsula.

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